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SOURCE

1. In April 1954, Object No 98 of the Wismut A.G. in Johanngeorgenstadt had a work force of about 600 men. The installation which consisted of an ore washing plant and an ore crushing plant processed grade II, III, and IV ore. 50X1-HUM
2. The ore delivered by the mines was stored in bins from where it was taken on conveyer belts to jaw crushers and from there via ball crushers to "Zeche 2", the so-called "wet department". From "Zeche 2" the ore was again conveyed to the storage bins. From there it was taken to swing sieves and subsequently to coarse crushers. From the coarse crushers the ore was directed to fine crushers via various sieve systems. Two further stages of the crushing process were performed at "Balkon I" and "Balkon II". The crushed product was packed in boxes and special containers and then dried in drying chambers. Any material which required additional crushing was sent to ball crusher No 4 and from there over various sieves to a concentrator about 15 meters high and 8 meters in diameter. Waste sludge was pumped into the mud pond. Five pumps were available at the pumping station.
3. The drying room, which was equipped with ovens, had connections to each of the batteries of hearths. In this room, the ore was sorted into grades fine, medium and coarse. The dried ore was loaded on large mine trucks and shipped to the ore storage bins. At these storage bins Soviet personnel loaded the ore on special vehicles which could be sealed airtight and which were loaded on special trucks. The ore from two mine cars could be loaded on each truck. All the ore was tested by the Soviets with Geiger counters. The ore was packed in sheet metal boxes, 80 x 30 x 60 cm. The loaded boxes weighed 600 to 700 hundred weight and represented a value of 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 DM. From 8 to 10 boxes of ore were shipped out every day. Three ore washing plants were in operation at Object No 98.
4. A total of five pressure pumps were, allegedly, available at Object No 98. Pumps frequently broke down because the pipes clogged. The clearing of clogged pipes was a difficult affair because pipes had to be cut open. Machinery of Object No 98 was in poor condition. This applied even to the machinery installed in the new pumping station. The breakdown of one of the classifying grates was particularly grave because these grates could not be repaired by personnel of Object No 98. Excellent equipment and material were stored in sheds. The Soviets were reluctant to issue this material and the

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process of requisitioning was delayed by much red tape. The issue of one pair of gloves used by welders required 12 signatures.

5. There was much discontent among the workers of Object No 98 who resented increased work norms with accompanying reduction of wages. A worker in wage category 4 earned 320.- to 340.- DMC per month. The food issued to the workers was, however, excellent. Soviet women from 21 to 26 years old worked as foremen at the installation.

Convinced communists and informants working at the installation included:

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Berek (fnu)

SED secretary, [redacted]

Schneider (fnu)

chairman of the trade union organization, [redacted]

Deswilli (fnu)

interpreter, [redacted]

Willi Bensch

shop foreman, [redacted]

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Hugo Oberende

Juetz (fnu)

foreman, [redacted]

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